

Christine O. Gregoire

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Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Mail Stop PV-11 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8711 • (206) 459-6000

August 5, 1988

Mr. Phil Millam, Branch Chief  
Superfund Site Management Section  
U.S. EPA Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: Colbert Landfill Community Relations Responsibilities

Dear Mr. Millam:

As you know, Ecology has had lead responsibility for Colbert Landfill cleanup activities. Currently, we are sharing the lead on the consent decree portion of the process. Both agencies have worked diligently assessing the issues with Colbert and negotiating an effective cleanup proposal.

Throughout this process, we have conducted public meetings and other public informational activities. To date, Ecology staff has had responsibility for compliance with community relations requirements of CERCLA/SARA and, most recently, the state Hazardous Waste Cleanup Act. Ecology prepared the Community Relations Plan (CRP) for Colbert and is currently revising the CRP to cover the remedial action phase. Additionally, Ecology staff has met regularly with the Colbert Cleanup Committee, a group comprised of citizens, PRP's and Ecology, that has been actively involved in following and commenting on the project. Finally, Ecology has issued several fact sheets on project development throughout the duration. Ecology has a high level of name and face familiarity in the community.

Recently, however, there has been some confusion as to the community relations tasks regarding the Colbert Landfill. This letter describes the tasks Ecology will be completing and identifies tasks that should be undertaken jointly with EPA.

Fact Sheets

If delays in lodging the consent decree continue, Ecology will prepare and circulate a fact sheet to the community as an update to the consent decree's status. If the consent decree is lodged by September, this fact sheet will not be necessary. The fact sheet update will be a brief, one-page update explaining that the lodging of the decree is anticipated for early fall of 1988, followed by a public comment period and public meeting. The fact sheet will be consistent with the other fact sheets circulated on Colbert over the last five years we have been working on it. The fact sheet will be on Ecology letterhead and will be sent to EPA for review and comment if you so desire.

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When the consent decree is lodged with the court, Ecology will write another fact sheet describing the decree and scope of work in more detail, announcing the public comment period, and giving public meeting location, date and time. The fact sheet will be on Ecology letterhead to maintain consistency. We will also send this fact sheet to you for review and comment prior to distribution.

#### Public Meeting

One public meeting in the Colbert area will be held for staff presentations and to solicit comment on the consent decree. Ecology staff will set up the meeting and will invite EPA, Department of Justice (DOJ) and the PRP's representatives to participate. An agenda will be sent to EPA for review.

#### Responsiveness Summary

Comments (written and oral) received by Ecology will be forwarded with responses to EPA who will in turn submit them to the Department of Justice. Our understanding is that copies of all comments received by EPA and DOJ will be sent to Ecology as well. Both Ecology and EPA will help DOJ write the Responsiveness Summary. We also understand that it is DOJ's responsibility to submit the completed responsiveness summary along with the decree to the court.

Ecology feels the above community relations strategy will help to minimize community confusion and frustration over what the cleanup process is all about and who is responsible. It also adds continuity to a long process that is approaching this major milestone.

I hope this clarifies our upcoming activities. Should you or your staff have any questions, please call me at (206) 438-3007 or Dan Wrye, our Colbert Community Relations Specialist, at (206) 438-3052.

Sincerely,

*Michael J. Gallagher*

(for Carol Fleskes)

Carol Fleskes, Program Manager  
Hazardous Waste Cleanup Operations

CF:DW:sjm

cc: Mike Blum, Ecology  
Pete Kmet, Ecology  
Grechen Schrieber, EPA  
Neil Thompson, EPA  
Dan Wrye, Ecology